

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2472

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN GJ

SUBJ: VISIT BY GRENADIANS TO USUN

1. GRENADIAN SENATOR AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM

AUDREY PALMER CALLED ON AMB. SCHAUFELE JAN. 25, ACCCOMPANIED BY FRANK ROJAS. THEY DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS THE FUTURE GRENADIAN PERM REP AND DEPUTY PERM REP TO THE UN RESPECTIVELY, ALSO TO BE ACCREDITED TO WASHINGTON (ONLY ROJAS TO BE RESIDENT IN US). ROJAS DID MOST OF THE TALKING.

2. ROJAS AND PALMER REPEATEDLY STRESSED PRIME MINISTER'S GAIRY'S INTEREST IN CLOSE FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE US AND DETERMINATION TO CURB LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST INFLUENCE ON THE ISLAND. THEY REFERRED TO THE RECENT DISTURBANCES AND COMPLAINED THAT BIASED REPORTING BY A UPI RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT WHO IS A MEMBER OF GAIRY'S OPPOSITION HAD EXAGGERATED THEIR ANTI-US ASPECT. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISORDERS, THEY SAID GRENADA WOULD NEED AN EFFECTIVE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DEFENSE FORCE BUT NOW HAD ONLY 19TH CENTURY EQUIPMENT, AND WOULD APPRECIATE SOME US DEFENSE AID. IN GENERAL IT WANTED TO LOOK TO THE US AS ITS BIG BROTHER AND (IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION) DOWNPLAYED CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE AID AND TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UK. IN PASSING THEY

SAID GRENADA WOULD WELCOME US SUPPORT FOR ITS APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, WHICH IT WOULD BE MAKING IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

3. CITING PRESENT COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS ROJAS AND PALMER WERE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE INFORMATION SOON ON THE IDENTITY OF THE US DELEGATE TO THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES AND SAID IT WOULD BE NIFTY IF HE COULD COME IN A SPECIAL LARGE PLANE. IT WOULD BE ALSO BE GOOD IF THE US HAD A WARSHIP IN THE AREA WHICH COULD CALL AT GRENADA ON INDEPENDENCE DAY. A US RESIDENT EMBASSY IN GRENADA WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME. THEY ALSO ASKED FOR ANY PROCEDURAL HELP WE COULD PROVIDE (WHAT FORMS SHOULD BE USED, ETC.) IN ESTABLISHING FORMAL US-GRENADA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

4. THE APPOINTMENT WAS REQUESTED BY ROJAS AND PALMER ON THEIR OWN AND WAS SECONDED BY THE UK MISSION HERE. THEY SAID THEY WOULD LIKELY BE CALLING US AGAIN WITH FURTHER REQUESTS BETWEEN NOW AND FEB. 7.

5. ROJAS CALLED AMB SCHAUFELE LATER TO ASK IF USG COULD PROVIDE AIR FORCE OR NAVY AERIAL AEROBATIC TEAM FOR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS AS, HE HAD HEARD, IT HAD DONE AT TIME OF BAHAMAS INDEPENDENCE. HE SUGGESTED FEB 8 AT NOON WOULD BE BEST TIME SINCE IT WOULD COINCIDE WITH OPENING OF NATIONAL PARK SCHAUFELE SAID HE WULD TRANSMIT REQUEST BUT NOTED THAT SUCH GROUPS ARE USUALLY SCHEDULED FAR IN ADVANCE.

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